

School Readiness Initiative

“Launch Update”

California Children and Families Commission
School Readiness Planning Group
June 21, 2001

CCFC School Readiness Planning Group

- Fiscal
- Criteria/Eligibility
- Evaluation
- Technical Assistance

CCFC School Readiness Planning Group

Representatives:

- County Commissioners and Executive Directors
- Advisory Committee on Diversity
- CCFC Staff

“Launch” Timeline

- Tier 1** RFF out August 2001
 Start November 2001
- Tier 2** Intent to Participate-December 2001
 RFF out December 2001
 Start July 2002
- Tier 3** RFF out December 2002
 Start July 2003

Fiscal SubGroup Recommendations

- **How should we disburse funds to counties?**

Use allocations to determine an individual county's share

- **When would disbursements start?**

July 2001

- **How much will we allocate?**

\$200 M over 3-4 years

Fiscal SubGroup Recommendations

- **How should we allocate the funds?**
Use a formula that allocates funds based on the blending of county birth rates and the number of students in schools in deciles 1-3 (API)
- **Will we provide implementation grants?**
Provide up to \$100K per year out of allocation with no local match required

Fiscal SubGroup Recommendations

- **Will there be a county match?**

Yes – counties will need to provide a 1:1 match (lesser match as incentive for Tier 1 sites until July 1, 2002 – 50%)

- **Where can county match come from?**

Any source as long as it is a cash commitment

Target Communities

Communities served by schools with
Academic Performance Index (API) in
deciles 1-3

Estimate: 1385 schools

over 800,000 children

85% low income

48% English Language
Learners (about 75% Latino)

Overall 'SR' Principles

- Voluntary family participation
- Family focus and decision-making
- Community investment and design
- Inclusive and culturally competent
- Addresses needs of children with disabilities and other special needs
- Collaboration
- Builds on family and community assets
- Coordinates existing services and infrastructure

Overall 'SR' Processes

- School based or linked
- Plan with connected assessment, prioritized goals, strategies, partners, and evaluation (based on disaggregated data)
- Comprehensive training
- Results based accountability and strong evaluation component
- Systems Integration and redesign
- Standards and research based, plus 'promising practices'

5 Essential (and Coordinated) Elements for 'SR'

- 1. Children's Readiness for School**
- 2. Parenting/Family Support**
- 3. Health and Social Services**
- 4. Schools' Readiness for Children**
- 5. Site Infrastructure, Evaluation, and Administration**

Criteria/Eligibility

SubGroup Recommendations

Drafted documents to support Principles, Processes, and 5 Essential Elements:

- **RFF Matching Funds Grant Application Narrative – Tier 1**
- **Review Criteria – County Self-Assessment and Review/Selection Criteria (Tier 1, 2, 3)**

Criteria/Eligibility SubGroup Recommendations

Also drafted:

- **Very Preliminary Service Levels and Criteria for 5 Essential Elements**
- **Review/Selection Process**

Evaluation SubGroup Recommendations

RFP issued in July to develop Evaluation Contract for the following deliverables by December 2001:

- Process Evaluation Design
- Impact Evaluation Design
- Continued development of County Results & Indicators (Annual Report) with participating counties

Evaluation SubGroup Recommendations

Implementation of School Readiness
Evaluation Design will be informed by:

- Work of other states and countries on SR
- National efforts on all 3 components of NEGP definition of SR
- Experiences of Tier 1 counties

Evaluation SubGroup Recommendations

- All participating counties need to agree to participate in SR evaluation and research
- TA will be provided to all counties
- SR indicators and process ultimately will be integrated into overall County Commission evaluation
- Evaluation design to be completed by contractor by December 2001

Technical Assistance SubGroup Recommendations

- Use the 'Principles' approved by this group and the Advisory Committee on Diversity
- Design a TA delivery system to meet the needs of Tier 1 sites and to set a framework for long-term TA needs of all counties

Technical Assistance SubGroup Recommendations

- Ask State Commission to contract with TA consultants to oversee TA delivery on a regional basis
- State TA will focus on operational assistance, cultural sensitivity, language acquisition and reading readiness, integrated service delivery, quality criteria, sustainability, etc.

Technical Assistance SubGroup Recommendations

- Ask State Commission to create a list of screened TA providers to assist counties in obtaining quality TA on a county, regional, or statewide basis
- State Commission and Association will continue to coordinate TA for all counties

Next Steps

Review and discuss with:

- Advisory Committee on Diversity (June 29)
- SR Advisory Committee (TBD)

Draft RFF with policy and quality criteria to CCFC for review (ahead of July 19 meeting)

RFF Information Meetings for County Commissions and Local Partners (July and August)